

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 11, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 31, 32, 51, 52 and 55-56 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 61 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 31-61 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 31-43 and 45-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,500 to Callaway (hereinafter Callaway). The rejection is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claims 31-43 and 45-60.

Claim 31, upon which claims 33-50 depend, recites a method including sending a request from one user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications. The request prompts the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in a second communications network. The method also includes receiving from the at least one slave user equipment a response including user information for group establishment, over the first communications network. The method further includes creating by the master user equipment based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment. The group includes the master user equipment and the at least one slave user equipment.

equipment. The method also includes sending by the master user equipment the information on the created group to the second communications network for establishing the communications group in the second communications network including user equipments. The method also includes using the second communications network for group communication of the group.

Claim 32 recites a method of establishing a communications group in a communications network. The method includes sending a request from a master user equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network. The request prompts the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in a second communications network. The method also includes receiving from the at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response including user information for group establishment. The method further includes creating by the master user equipment the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment. The group includes the master user equipment and the at least one slave user equipment. The method further includes sending by the master user equipment the information on the created group to all members of the group over the second communications network.

Claim 51, upon which claims 53-54 depend, recites a user equipment including a group communications capability. The equipment further includes means for sending a request to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network. The request prompts the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group

establishment for communication in a second communication network. The equipment also includes means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response including user information for group establishment. The equipment further includes means for creating the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and means for sending the information on the created group to the second communication network for establishing the group.

Claim 52 recites a user equipment including a group communications capability. The equipment also includes means for sending a request to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment. The equipment also includes means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response including user information for group establishment. The equipment further includes means for creating the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and means for sending the information on the created group to all members of the group via the first communications network.

Claim 55, upon which claims 57-60 depend, recites a communications system including a mobile communications network and a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a first communications network. The

system further includes at least one user equipment is configured to operate as master user equipment and to send a request to at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network. The system further includes at least one user equipment configured to operate as slave user equipment and to send to the master user equipment over the first communications network a response including user information for group establishment. The system also includes the master user equipment that is further configured to create the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and the master user equipment being further configured to send the information on the created group to the mobile communications network for establishing the group.

Claim 56 recites a communications system including a mobile communications network, a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a first communications network. The system also includes at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment and to send a request to at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network. The system further includes at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment and to send to the master user equipment over the first communications network a response including user information for group

establishment. The system also includes the master user equipment being further configured to create the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment and the master user equipment being further configured to send the information on the created group to all members of the group over the first communications network.

As outlined below, Applicants submit that the cited reference of Callaway does not teach or suggest the elements of claims 31-43 and 45-60.

In Callaway, a master polls the slaves at a first interval and receives a communication request from a first slave to communicate with a second slave. The master then designates communication parameters and polls the slaves to confirm the termination of communication. Since there is a limitation of the number of slave devices that a master can control, other slave devices are in a parked mode. In Callaway, the master can set up multiple parked slave groups, thus, achieving higher system throughput without the intercession of the master. See Col. 1, lines 44 to 46, Col. 2, line 22, Col. 3, lines 3 to 6 and Col. 3, lines 16-20 of Callaway.

Applicants submit that Callaway does not teach or suggest each element recited in claims 31-43 and 45-60. Each of claims 31-43 and 45-60 recites sending a request from one user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network, the request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in a second communications network. Callaway does not teach or suggest these features.

In the present invention, as recited in the presently pending claims, at least one slave equipment responds to a request of the master user equipment with user information, the master user equipment creates the group based on the user information and sends information either to the communications network or to all members of the group. Thus, the present invention provides for easy, fast and simple establishment of group communication.

Callaway concentrates on dynamic control of talk groups in a wireless network and not on establishing a communications group, as recited in the presently pending claims. Callaway discloses how a master device can connect two or more slave devices together. The presently pending claims recite that **any** of the devices can act as a master, and **all devices**, including the master device, will be connected to a group session. In Callaway, one of the slave devices requests a communication from the master device. See Col. 3, lines 39-40 of Callaway. Contrary to the teachings of Callaway, the presently pending claims recite that the master device, not the slave device, requests the other devices to join a group session. The present invention discloses sending a request for user information for group establishment and the session itself is connected/used using the core network. In Callaway, the master device is forced to connect different slave devices together, as they are not able to do that by themselves.

Although Callaway mentions short-range wireless communication and Bluetooth technology, there is no teaching or suggestion in Callaway of using a first

communications network for establishing the communications group and a second network for using the communications group, as recited in the pending claims.

In the “Response to Arguments” section, the Office Action indicates that the master device knows how to contact and direct two or more slave devices to establish a talk group. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Callaway that the master user equipment belongs to the talk group. Col. 3, lines 52-55 of Callaway discloses that the master assigns a second polling interval or a re-polling interval to maintain some form of communication and control over the slaves. The Abstract of Callaway also discloses that the master designates communication parameters for communication between the first slave and at least the second slave. As noted above, Callaway does not teach or suggest that the master user equipment belongs to the talk group. Based on the discussion above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn because Callaway fails to teach or suggest each feature of claims 31-43 and 45-60.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Callaway in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0034959 to Jamieson (hereinafter Jamieson). According to the Office Action, Callaway teaches all of the elements of claim 44 except for teaching an MSISDN number. Therefore, the Office Action combined Callaway and Jamieson to yield all of the elements of claim 44. The rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither teach nor suggest the novel

combination of features clearly recited in independent claim 31, upon which claim 44 depend.

Claim 31 and Callaway have been discussed above. Jamieson discloses a method of transferring data signals between a primary station and secondary stations of a master/slave radio network. The method includes the primary station assigning the secondary stations to a plurality of categories. The primary station transmits beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which it has data to be transferred. A secondary station operating in accordance with a wakeup sequence receives the beacon signals and determines if there is an indication of its category in a received beacon signal. If so, it transmits a request including an indication of its identity. The primary station checks to see if it has a data packet for the identified secondary station and, if it has, it transmits the data packet and, if not, it transmits a negative acknowledgement. Those secondary stations not participating in the exchange of messages can revert to a sleep mode thereby saving power. See at least the Abstract.

Jamieson does not cure any of the deficiencies of Callaway as outlined above. Specifically, Jamieson does not teach or suggest sending a request from one user equipment acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network, the request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in a second communications network and the master user equipment creates the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment, as recited in claim 31, upon which

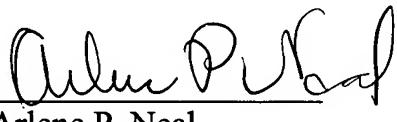
claim 44 depends. Therefore, Applicants respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Callaway nor Jamieson, whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests each feature of claim 31 and hence, dependent claim 44 thereon.

As noted previously, claims 31-61 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 31-61 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Check No. 17208